

## Claims

- [c1] 1.A fence clip locking tool for bending a clip to secure a fencing wire to a fence post, said fence clip locking tool comprising:  
an elongated rod presenting opposite spaced apart ends and being configured to engage the clip between the ends and to facilitate bending of the clip during securement of the fencing wire to the fencing post; and  
a handle angularly projecting from the rod,  
said handle including a rotatable handle cover to be grasped by a user.
- [c2] 2.The tool as claimed in claim 1,  
said handle projecting from one of the rod ends.
- [c3] 3.The tool as claimed in claim 1,  
said handle and rod being generally transverse relative to one another.
- [c4] 4.The tool as claimed in claim 3,  
said handle projecting generally perpendicularly relative to the rod to present an approximately ninety-degree angle therebetween.

- [c5] 5.The tool as claimed in claim 1,  
said rod further presenting an arcuate clip engaging  
portion between the ends.
- [c6] 6.The tool as claimed in claim 5,  
said rod presenting a rod length,  
said portion presenting an arc-length not less than  
about seventy-five percent of the rod length.
- [c7] 7.The tool as claimed in claim 6,  
said rod length being approximately equal to five inches.
- [c8] 8.The tool as claimed in claim 1,  
said handle including a center shaft presenting opposite  
spaced apart handle ends, wherein one of said handle  
ends is adjacent the rod,  
said cover being rotatably supported by the center shaft.
- [c9] 9.The tool as claimed in claim 8,  
said handle further including an end cap removably at-  
tached to the handle end opposite from said one of said  
handle ends,  
said cap being configured to cooperatively retain the  
handle cover on the center shaft.
- [c10] 10.The tool as claimed in claim 8,  
said center shaft and rod being integrally formed to co-  
operatively present a bent unitary bar.

- [c11] 11.The tool as claimed in claim 10,  
said bar being formed of cold rolled carbon steel.
- [c12] 12.The tool as claimed in claim 1,  
said handle being about three inches in length.
- [c13] 13.The tool as claimed in claim 1,  
said handle cover being formed of non-conductive ma-  
terial.
- [c14] 14.The tool as claimed in claim 13,  
said handle cover consisting essentially of wood, rubber,  
or plastic.
- [c15] 15.A method for fastening a fencing wire to a fence post  
using the tool as claimed in claim 1, said method com-  
prising the steps of:
  - (a) placing a fencing wire adjacent the fencing post at a  
desired position and orientation;
  - (b)placing a yieldably rigid clip, having oppositely spaced  
latching end sections, in a partially circumscribing rela-  
tionship with the fence post and adjacent the fencing  
wire, so that one of the latching end sections engages  
the wire and the other end sections forms a loop open-  
ing with the wire;
  - (c)inserting the rod into the loop opening; and
  - (d)exhorting a bending force upon the handle to swing

the rod and thereby bend the wire clip to secure the fencing wire to the fence post.

- [c16] 16.The method as claimed in claim 15,  
step (a) including the step of tensioning the fencing wire.
- [c17] 17.The method as claimed in claim 15,  
step (d) including the step of swinging the rod about an arc of about one-hundred-eighty degrees.
- [c18] 18.The method as claimed in claim 15,  
step (d) including the step of progressively inserting the rod into the loop opening, while the rod is swung.
- [c19] 19.A fence clip locking tool for bending a clip to secure a fencing wire to a fence post, said fence clip locking tool comprising:  
a handle for grasping by a user; and  
an elongated rod angularly projecting from the handle,  
said rod presenting opposite spaced apart ends and an arcuate clip engaging portion extending between the ends,  
said clip-engaging portion being configured to engage the clip and facilitate bending of the clip during securement of the fencing wire to the fencing post.
- [c20] 20.The tool as claimed in claim 19,  
said handle projecting from one of the rod ends.

- [c21] 21.The tool as claimed in claim 19,  
said handle and rod being generally transverse relative  
to one another.
- [c22] 22.The tool as claimed in claim 21,  
said handle projecting generally perpendicularly relative  
to the rod to present an approximately ninety-degree  
angle therebetween.
- [c23] 23.The tool as claimed in claim 19,  
said rod presenting a longitudinal rod length,  
said portion presenting an arc-length not less than  
about seventy-five percent of the rod length.
- [c24] 24.The tool as claimed in claim 23,  
said rod length being approximately equal to five inches.
- [c25] 25.The tool as claimed in claim 19,  
said handle including a center shaft and a handle cover  
supported by the center shaft,  
said center shaft presenting opposite spaced apart han-  
dle ends, wherein one of said handle ends is adjacent the  
rod,  
said cover being rotatable relative to the center shaft.
- [c26] 26.The tool as claimed in claim 25,  
said handle further including an end cap removably at-

tached to the handle end opposite from said one of said handle ends,

said cap being configured to cooperatively retain the handle cover on the center shaft.

- [c27] 27.The tool as claimed in claim 25,  
said center shaft and rod being integrally formed to co-operatively present a bent unitary bar.
- [c28] 28.The tool as claimed in claim 27,  
said bar being formed of cold rolled carbon steel.
- [c29] 29.The tool as claimed in claim 19,  
said handle each being about three inches in length.
- [c30] 30.The tool as claimed in claim 25,  
said handle cover being formed of non-conductive material.
- [c31] 31.The tool as claimed in claim 30,  
said handle cover consisting essentially of wood, rubber, or plastic.
- [c32] 32.A method for fastening a fencing wire to a fence post using the tool as claimed in claim 19, said method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) placing a fencing wire adjacent the fencing post at a desired position and orientation;

(b) placing a yieldably rigid clip, having oppositely spaced latching end sections, in a partially circumscribing relationship with the fence post and adjacent the fencing wire, so that one of the latching end sections engages the wire and the other end sections forms a loop opening with the wire;

(c) inserting the rod into the loop opening so that the arcuate portion engages the clip; and

(d) exerting a bending force upon the handle to swing the rod and thereby bend the wire clip to secure the fencing wire to the fence post.

- [c33] 33. The method as claimed in claim 32,  
step (a) including the step of tensioning the fencing wire.
- [c34] 34. The method as claimed in claim 32,  
step (d) including the step of swinging the rod about an arc of about one-hundred-eighty degrees.
- [c35] 35. The method as claimed in claim 32,  
step (d) including the step of progressively inserting the rod into the loop opening, while the rod is swung.